



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Addendum for the *Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Performance Measurement Reporting Instructions and Information Packet* distributed December 2003

Additional Definitions. The following definitions are provided to clarify or expand upon the definition list located in Section 3 of the *Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Performance Measurement Reporting Instructions and Information Packet*. In some cases these definitions are for terms not defined in the original list. In others, they should replace the original definitions offered.

Behavioral management: Consistent with the competency development aspect of the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) model the operation of juvenile facilities rests on the assumption that the best way to improve public safety is by changing an offender's behavior.ⁱ The goal of behavior management is to increase the frequency of desirable behavior by providing positive consequences when the juvenile behaves well.

First-time juvenile offenders: Juveniles who adjudicated for an offense for the first time; first time offenders typically have no prior record for offending.

Graduated sanctions: An approach to the treatment of youthful offenders that involves a continuum of increasingly punitive and restricting sanctions. A youth's freedom is typically reduced incrementally at each successive stage within a graduated sanctions approach. OJJDP encourages states and sub-grantees to use funds to further expand the array of juvenile sanctions in the community.

Juvenile justice units: Delete this term.

Output indicator (process indicator): A particular value used to measure implementation of program activities. Includes products of activities and indicators of services provided.ⁱⁱ

Sanctions schedule: Rules and regulations noting consequences for negative behavior.

Secure care: This term is used interchangeably with **secure detention** and **secure confinement**. Although varying according to individual state law, secure care usually refers to facilities which youths cannot leave voluntarily. Facilities are usually characterized by locks on the doors. Detention usually refers to pre-adjudicatory care while confinement usually refers to post-adjudicatory care.

Short-term outcome indicator (Initial outcome indicator): A particular value used to measure immediate change(s) or lack thereof in the target (e.g. clients or system) of the program that are directly related to goal(s) and objectives. Typically, these include changes in individual learning, awareness, knowledge, attitude, skills, opinions, aspirations, and motivations.ⁱⁱⁱ

Substance abuse treatment: Services that focus on initiating and maintaining an individual's recovery from alcohol or drug abuse and on averting relapse, including detoxification, group or individual counseling, rehabilitation, and methadone or other pharmaceutical treatments.^{iv}

Unit of local government: A county, township, city, or political subdivision of county, township, or city that is a unit of local government as determined by the Secretary of Commerce for general statistical purposes; the District of Columbia; and the recognized body of an Indian tribe or Alaskan Native village carries out substantial governmental duties and powers.^v

Revisions to Key JABG/JAIBG Performance Indicators: With Explanation

The following list was developed in response to several questions received about the initial list of performance indicators with explanation (Section 6.2 of the *Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Performance Measurement Reporting Instructions and Information Packet*). The following revisions and corrections are listed in order according to the page on which they appear in the packet.

Purpose Area 2: Building, Expanding, Renovating, or operating temporary or permanent juvenile correction, detention, or community corrections facilities

- P51 Indicator Number 9, p110 Indicator Number 7 **There are places where what appears to be the same indicator has different purposes across different purpose areas. For example, the “purpose” for time spent on security differs by purpose area. Is this intentional?** Yes. The difference is in the description of the types of programs for whom the indicator is probably not appropriate. On page 51 it is not appropriate for facilities under construction because construction is a primary activity under this purpose area. On page 110, it is appropriate for programs that have completed at least one activity, which in this case is hiring or training.
- P52 Indicator Number 14: There is a missing “at” in the third sentence. It should read “Report the raw number of youth that left the facility **at** the end of their legally...”
- P54 Indicator Number 24: **The use of the term diversion may be confusing because it has other implications in juvenile justice. Just to clarify, this**

refers to “placed elsewhere because of lack of space?” Yes, the meaning is placed elsewhere.

Purpose Area 4: Hiring additional prosecutors, so that more cases involving violent juvenile offenders can be prosecuted and case backlog reduced

- P60 Indicator Number 10: **Does this include secure and non-secure detention?** Yes. The JABG bulletin *Enhancing Prosecutors’ Ability To Combat and Prevent Juvenile Crime in Their Jurisdictions* does not specify one type over the other. So grantees should include any detention between arrest and case disposition (i.e., not confinement that is part of the juvenile’s sentence).

Purpose Area 5: Providing funding to enable prosecutors to address drug, gang, and youth violence problems more effectively and for technology, equipment, and training to assist prosecutors in identifying and expediting the prosecution of violent juvenile offenders

- P61 Indicator Number 4: **When counting hours of training, is it number of hours offered per person? This measure exists in many places.** No, since this is an output measure it is intended to measure the number of hours of training that a site funded through JABG. With regard to respondent burden, it was thought that tracking the number of hours offered per person might be too complicated. This may be especially true if programs offer different types of training for different types of staff.
- P63 Indicator Number 13: **How are junior and senior staff defined?** The relevant JABG bulletins talk about having experienced (senior) prosecutors specialize on the tougher cases. But there is no specific definition of junior and senior. Therefore, each grantee should use their local definitions.

Purpose Area 6: Establishing and maintaining training programs for law enforcement and other court personnel with respect to preventing and controlling juvenile crime

- P67 Indicator Number 10: **Should those who were fired or retired be excluded from this count?** No, all staff should be included.

Purpose Area 10: Establishing and maintaining interagency information-sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice systems, schools, and social services agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts

- P86 Indicator Number 3: **This seems to require that sub-grantees decide the time/set rules about when a file is supposed to be complete.** Yes. From a burden stand point this should not cause problems because sites should

have some rules about what a file should contain. From the standpoint of making comparisons across sites, complete would be defined differently across sites, but whether a file is complete or not should be uniform (i.e., meets local standard for completeness). Sites should not change or base their definitions of file completeness on a desire to report a high rate.

- P87 Indicator Number 9: **What is the definition of referral? What is this measure trying to tap? That is, why are multiple referral perceived as negative?** Any formal clinical or professional recommendation that a client access a particular type of service should be counted as a referral. Formal means that there is a note in the file (paper or electronic), a paper referral that the client takes to the service provider, or some other similar mechanism for documenting the recommendation. It would not include a comment that a client might want to look into a particular type of treatment, or a recommendations form an unqualified source (such as a friend). Multiple referrals, in this case, are negative because they suggest system redundancy and a lack of cross-system communication/information sharing. Multiple referrals for different problems, second opinions, or follow-up on the same problem should not be counted here.
- P88 Indicator Number 10: **This seems to relate to the notion of availability of service at the time it is requested. What about services that are available but, for some other reason, the youth does not currently receive them? Is this included in a “waiting list” calculation? Consider including this distinction.** That distinction is correct. The intention here is that youth are put on a waiting list because the service is not available and they are therefore waiting for a service slot. Youth who do not receive an available service for some other reason should not be counted here.

Purpose Area 11: Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies

- P91 Indicator Number 8: **Why does this purpose refer exclusively to graduated sanctions? That is, why are other accountability programs excluded from using this and related measures?** That was an error. The indicator name suggests that any accountability program is applicable. “accountability programs” should be substituted for “graduated sanctions” in this purpose.
- P92 Indicator Number 12: **There is a typo on line 2.** Yes, please change as follows “Appropriate for programs that **serve** youth...”

Purpose Area 12: Establishing and maintaining programs to conduct risk and needs assessments of juvenile offenders that facilitate the effective early intervention and the

provision of comprehensive services, including mental health screening and treatment and substance abuse testing and treatment to such offenders

- P94 Indicator Number 5: **Is this measure explicitly excluding those programs that use only risk OR needs assessments?** Although the term AND is used in the purpose area name and the relevant JABG bulletin OJJDP staff suggested that the meaning is actually OR. This means that grantees that use either risk OR needs assessments, as well as those that use both, can use this indicator.
- P95 Indicator Number 9: **Is this supposed to be the average across all assessments or for each type of assessment (e.g. risk, needs, mental health etc.)?** It should be the average time for all standard assessments that are conducted as part of processing a youth. But, only include standard program assessments. Time to specialized assessments or assessments only conducted under select circumstances would not be included.

Purpose Area 13: Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety

- P98 Indicator Number 9: **This measure seems to relate to the number of program types while the purpose seems to relate to the total number of programs.** That is an error. Both should refer to program types.
- P99 Indicator Number 13: **Please explain when a youth would receive this programming but not be involved in the justice system. That is, are you referring to clients already in the juvenile justice system who commit a new offense while in the program who are then referred to the juvenile justice system for the new offense?** This indicator refers to school-based accountability programs and the relevant JABG bulletin mentions programs that address prevention and at-risk youth as well as juvenile offenders. So the indicator was written to include both as well. Regardless of their prior justice system involvement, this measure captures that number of referrals to the justice system made while the youth was in the program.
- P100 Indicator Number 15: **Does this indicator refer to crimes reported while the youth are enrolled in the program?** No, it is a school level indicator reflecting the number of specified crimes reported during the reporting period. It is to get at the idea that accountability will reduce overall school crime (not just crime by youth in the accountability program).
- P100 Indicator Number 16: **What does presumed mean? Does it refer to under investigation?** It was meant to allow for inclusion of threats that can reasonably be attributed to a student(s) but for which student perpetration cannot be conclusively proved. It could include under investigation as well as some unsolved threats.

Purpose Area 15: Establishing and maintaining programs to enable juvenile courts and juvenile probation officers to be more effective and efficient in holding juvenile offenders accountable and reducing recidivism

- P105 Indicator Number 4: **Why does this purpose refer exclusively to graduated sanctions? That is, why are other accountability programs excluded from using this and related measures?** Replace graduated sanctions with accountability.
- P108 Indicator Number 15: **There is a typo in the purpose.** You in line 2 should be youth
- P108 Indicator Number 17: **There is a typo in the purpose.** Make the following change "...that modifications include **placing** more restrictive..."
- P109 Indicator Number 5: **The measure says "practices AND programming" but the purpose says "practices OR programming."** Which one is correct? OR is correct.

Purpose Area 16: Hiring detention and corrections personnel, and establishing and maintaining training programs for such personnel to improve facility practices and programming

- P51 Indicator Number 9, p110 Indicator Number 7 **There are places where what appears to be the same indicator has different purposes across different purpose areas. For example, the "purpose" for time spent on security differs by purpose area. Is this intentional?** Yes. The difference is in the description of the types of programs for whom the indicator is probably not appropriate. On page 51 it is not appropriate for facilities under construction because construction is a primary activity under this purpose area. On page 110, it is appropriate for programs that have completed at least one activity, which in this case is hiring or training.
- P110 Indicator Number 8: **What is indirect training?** Indirect refers to the offering not the training (i.e., training that is indirectly offered). Indirect would be programs that refer out to training (or otherwise provide for staff to be trained) rather than providing it themselves.
- P112 Indicator Number 13: **Should those who were fired or retired be excluded from this count?** No, all staff should be included.
- P112 Indicator Number 14: **The purpose says detention, but the measure says isolation.** Isolation is correct.

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ⁱ See, for example, <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojdp/178928.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Definition adapted from <http://www.jrsa.org/jjec/resources/definitions.html> Indicator Number ST, and Definitions adapted from the OMB Circular no. A-11 Part 6 Section 200, pg. 2-3.

ⁱⁱⁱ Definition adapted from the following sources: GAO-02-923 –Strategies for Assessing How information Dissemination Contributes to Agency goals. GAO-03-9 –Efforts to strengthen the link between resources and results at the administration of children and families. GAO/GGD-00-10 Managing for Results: Strengthening Regulatory Agencies' Performance Management . Ellen Taylor-Powell. 2000. “A logic model: A program performance framework”. University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension Program Evaluation Conference. <http://www.jrsa.org/jjec/resources/definitions.html> Indicator Number ST, and Definitions adapted from the OMB Circular no. A-11 Part 6 Section 200 pages 2 and 3)

^{iv} Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (1997). “Substance Abuse in Adult and Juvenile Correctional Facilities.”

^v Parent, D. & L. Barnett (2003). “Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program: National Evaluation.” Washington, DC: Abt Associates.